Decoding dark matter in genes

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Decoding the Dark Matter of the Human Genome

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Both animal and human studies have shown that traits acquired by the parents, such as stress responses or the ability to store fat, can be passed on to their offspring. While DNA remains unaltered, what triggers these changes in phenotype is the activation or deactivation of genes--in other words, whether certain genes produce the proteins they code for. Possible future applications, for example, include making new cancer therapies based on how ribosomes differentiate in healthy versus cancerous tissue.

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